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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of :  
Ahlers, et, al. :  
Application No. 09/899,742 : **DECISION GRANTING PETITION**  
Filed: July 3, 2001 :  
Attorney Docket No. 3198/BDR :

This is a decision on the petition filed July 8, 2003, under 37 CFR 1.10(c) requesting that the above-cited application be accorded a filing date of July 3, 2001, rather than the presently accorded filing date of July 4, 2001.

Petitioner alleges that the application was deposited with the Express Mail Service on July 3, 2001. In support of the allegation, the petition is accompanied by a statement from Shahan Islam detailing the application papers deposit and a communication from the United States Postal Service indicating that Express Mail package EL811588845US was received at the Patent and Trademark Office on July 5, 2001. The evidence is convincing that in order to be received by the Patent and Trademark Office on July 5, 2001, the package was likely deposited on July 3, 2001, as July 4, 2001, was a federal holiday and all United States post offices were closed.

In view of the above, the petition is granted. The new filing date for the above-cited application is July 3, 2001.

The address as cited on the petition differs from the address of record. Although a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address as cited on the petition, all future correspondence will be mailed solely to the address of record until appropriate written instructions to the contrary are received.

The application file is being returned to the Office of Initial Patent Examination for further processing with a filing date of July 3, 2001, and for issuance of a corrected filing receipt.

Any inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (703)305-0010

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